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**Monthly Register.**

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[UPON the first publication of the CAMBRO-BRITON it was our intention to embody, in this department of our work, all intelligence of any interest relating to the modern state of Wales, whether immediately connected with its literature or not. Experience, however, soon taught us, that, within the limits, to which we are necessarily confined, this was quite impracticable, without sacrificing the more important objects, that we had in view in this undertaking. And it has moreover occurred to us, upon a mature deliberation, that to render our pages the mere echo of the newspapers was, by no means, in accordance with the true spirit of the work, the aim of which was, as it still continues, the cultivation of our national literature in all its singular and interesting varieties. We have accordingly, as our readers may have remarked, contracted, for some time past, our original plan, by digesting under the former head of "WALES" such intelligence only as bore some reference to our main design. To this new, and, we think, improved, arrangement it is still our intention to adhere; and we look with confidence to the approbation of all those, who thoroughly comprehend the nature of our enterprise. In future, then, the work, in this department, will be confined to such articles of intelligence, as may harmonize with its general character, and promote its original views. Yet, while we thus propose to render our gleanings more choice than before, we design at the same time to open a wider field for our operations, by associating with Wales those nations, that are generally allowed to claim a kindred descent. Intelligence of interest, therefore, connected with the national characteristics of Ireland, Scotland, and Brittany, will always find a welcome reception in the pages of the CAMBRO-BRITON.—ED.]

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**CARNARVON EISTEDDVOD.**

ON the 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th days of last September the first EISTEDDVOD, or Bardic Session, of the "Cymmrodorion in Gwynedd" took place at Carnarvon, under the auspicious presidency of the Marquis of Anglesea. A numerous assemblage of nobility and gentry also honoured the meeting

with their presence, and communicated to the occasion an *éclat*, which has seldom been surpassed in the Principality.

The business of the EISTEDDVOD was opened on the 12th by an appropriate address from the noble President, who extolled, in strong and ardent terms, the national objects, which they were assembled to promote, and which, he observed, should never want his most zealous encouragement. This address was afterwards delivered in Welsh by Mr. D. Thomas (Davydd Du o Eryri), and seemed to make a deep impression upon those, who had not understood it from the mouth of the noble President.

The Rev. Mr. Bowen, of Bath, was the next to bespeak the attention of the meeting by the perusal of an Essay on Welsh Music, which was received with considerable applause. The chief object of this Essay was an historical review of the *Awen* of Wales from the earliest period down to the time of Glyndwr, when the voice of song was stifled in the unpropitious events of that troubled age. After the conclusion of Mr. Bowen's Essay, the musicians of the "Bath Harmonic Society," who had accompanied that gentleman, played a Welsh air with great skill. Three copies of Welsh verses on the occasion of the EISTEDDVOD were now recited, and experienced a very favourable reception: the writers were Mr. D. Thomas, Mr. John Howels, of Llandovery, and Mr. Thomas Roberts of Conway. After appropriate and animated addresses from Col. Parry and the Bishop of Bangor, the Judges of the Prizes proceeded to declare the successful candidates, of whom the following is an account.

1. The *AWDLON* "Minstrelsy."—Premium twenty guineas.—Mr. RICHARD JONES of Llanwnda, Carnarvonshire.

2. The *CYWYDD* on "The Accession of the Family of Tudor to the Throne of Great Britain."—Premium, ten guineas.—Mr. W. EDWARDS of Waen Vawr, Llanbeblig.

3. The *ENGLYN* on "The Birth of the first Prince of Wales of English blood at Carnarvon Castle."—Premium, five guineas.—There were fifty-one competitors for this prize, but none of the compositions were adjudged of sufficient merit to obtain it.

4. An *ENGLISH ESSAY* on the "Art of Alphabetical Writing amongst the Celts, and on the form and number of their Characters."—Premium, ten guineas.—Mr. I. H. PARRY, London.

5. An ENGLISH ESSAY on the “ Ancient Orders of Bard, Druid and Ovate.”—Premium, ten guineas.—No Candidate.

After the announcement of the prizes a premium of two guineas was proposed for the best Welsh poetical composition on the “ Exploits of the Marquis of Anglesey in the service of his country.” The subject was announced in Welsh, but, upon being afterwards explained in English, the compliment was delicately declined by the noble Marquis, who proposed, in its stead, that the subject should be “ The Benefits likely to arise from the visit of our most gracious king to his subjects.” This theme was finally selected; and the compositions, which were not to exceed twenty lines, were to be delivered before nine o’clock the following morning.

The proceedings of the first day closed with a vote of thanks, proposed by the Dean of Bangor, to Sir Charles Morgan, who was present on the occasion, and who, in acknowledging the the honour done him, took the opportunity of saying, that he should use his best exertions to have an EISTEDDVOD next year in the province of Gwent\*.

On Thursday, the 13th of September, the meeting was resumed, and held by adjournment in the Court of the Castle, the assemblage having become too great for the County Hall. The Gwyneddigion Prize Poem on the ‘ Fall of Llywelyn,’ which had been adjudged to the Rev. Walter Davies, was this day recited by Mr. David Thomas; and a programme in English, for the benefit of those unacquainted with the original, was read by the Rev. Mr. Rees, of Cascob, whose active zeal on this, as on every former, occasion had been evinced in a remarkable manner. The Premium of two guineas, for the best Ode upon the King’s Visit of his Subjects, was adjudged to Mr. Richard Jones, who recited the successful effusion. And this appears to have terminated the proceedings of the second day, as far as they related to the EISTEDDVOD.

On Friday, September 14th, the Meeting reassembled at the Castle; and the musical competition on the Welsh harp immediately commenced. There were eleven competitors; and the order, in which they were to play, was decided by lot in

\* This, we believe, has since been determined upon, and Brecon is said to be the place selected for the occasion.—ED.

the following manner:—1. Margaret Edwards, of Corwen, a blind woman. 2. Richard Pugh, of Dolgellau. 3. W. Hughes, of Welshpool. 4. John Morgan, of Carnarvon, a blind man. 5. Edward Williams, of Bangor. 6. Robert Rowlands, of Beddgelert, blind. 7. Evan Jones, of the Abbey, Llanrwst. 8. Mr. Benjamin Connah, of Rhiwabon. 9. Elizabeth Hughes, of Carnarvon, a young girl. 10. Evan Jones, of Capel Curig. 11. John Williams, of Pwllheli, blind.

After a vigorous and doubtful contest, especially between three of the performers, the first prize, the silver harp was awarded to Mr. William Hughes, of Welshpool, and the second prize, a medal, to John Morgan, of Carnarvon. Considerable praise was, at the same time, bestowed by the Judges upon the taste and execution, with which Mr. Benjamin Connah had played. The successful candidates were then invested with their prizes, appended to blue ribbons, by the Hon. Mrs. Irby, and the business of the day was brought to a close, the singing of *Pennillion* with the harp being postponed until the following morning.

On the morning of Saturday, September 15th, the EISTEDDVOD was once more resumed at the Castle: and several candidates appeared to contend for the *Pennillion* prize. The contest continued with unabated ardour for several hours, until the competitors were at length reduced to two; and, after an obstinate struggle, victory at length declared itself for Richard Jones, of Llangwyvan, in the county of Denbigh, who received the premium of three guineas, the second premium of one guinea being adjudged to his less fortunate rival, Thomas Edwards, of Corwen.

Thus terminated the proceedings of the EISTEDDVOD, as far as they related to its national objects and genuine characteristics. It would be beyond the purpose of this brief account to record all the traits of festivity and good fellowship, that distinguished this Bardic Congress during the four days of its continuance. It is but justice to add, however, that they were such as to prove, in the most unequivocal manner, the joy and enthusiasm with which all ranks participated in their national festival. And the spirit, with which the EISTEDDVOD in Gwynedd was conducted, will long be remembered as

worthy of the proudest æra of past times, and as a bright example of patriotism to ages yet to come \*.

Among the distinguished individuals, who honoured Carnarvon with their presence on this occasion, besides the noble President, were the Earl and Countess of Uxbridge, the Ladies Paget, Lord A. Paget, Lord Newborough, Lord and Lady Selsey, the Lord Bishop of Bangor and Mrs. Majendie, Hon. G. and Mrs. Irby, Hon. Paul and Mrs. Irby, Hon. Mr. Wynne, Sir Charles Morgan and family, Sir W. B. Hughes, Sir Joseph Huddart, the Dean of Bangor and family, Owen Williams, Esq. M.P., T. P. Williams, Esq. M.P., H. D. Pen-nant, Esq. M. P., and Col. Parry, whose active zeal and judicious services on this interesting occasion particularly entitle him to the gratitude of his countrymen.

#### CYMMRODORION REPORT.

THE first Report of the CYMMRODORION, or Metropolitan Cambrian Institution, has appeared since the publication of our last Number, and, considering that the Society have only been established one year, it affords very creditable testimony to their exertions. A good deal seems to have been already achieved, with the promise of much more, towards the collection of books and MSS. connected with Wales, and the general encouragement of our national literature. With the principal objects of the Institution the readers of the CAMBRO-BRITON must be already acquainted; we cannot refrain, however, from repeating them in the language of the Report, the commencement of which we therefore transcribe.

“In commencing a review as the proceedings of the newly-established Cymmrodorion, during the first year of their exertions for the advancement of Welsh Literature, it seems necessary to advert to that original Institution, of which the one now under consideration is, in fact, a revival.

“It appears, that in the year 1751 a considerable number of persons, connected with the Principality of Wales, and influenced by a due regard to national celebrity, founded a Society

\* We ought here to notice, that the co-operation of the musicians of the “Bath Harmonic Society,” under the auspices of the Rev. Mr. Bowen, contributed greatly to the spirit and hilarity of the meeting. The Band of the Royal Denbigh Militia, sent expressly by Sir W. W. Wynn, also attended.—Ed.